2011 ANNUAL REPORT

AFIS

King County Regional Identification Program

Message from the AAC Chair

On behalf of the AFIS Advisory Committee, I am proud to present this King County Regional AFIS annual report for 2011. Since voters first approved the Program 25 years ago, AFIS has consistently proven its value, not only through the volume of cases solved, but through its model of collaborative, cost-effective, and expanded regionalized service. The AFIS Program is inclusive of all cities and jurisdictions, and is a showcase for true intergovernmental cooperation.

As it enters the last year of the current levy period, the Program continues to complete its objectives on time and well under the budget that was originally requested of the voters. Through conservative spending and sensible fund management, the Program was able to reduce the levy rate by another $.01 in 2011. This equates to $3.8 million less collected from taxpayers in 2011 than in 2010 and further demonstrates the AFIS Program's commitment to providing effective services at the lowest possible cost.

An exciting milestone was reached in 2011 with the replacement of the aging and outdated AFIS that was originally installed in 1988 and last updated in 1999. The new system went live in March 2011 and now includes the ability to match palmprints, which will identify more suspects. Already, this expanded technology has associated subjects with homicide cold cases who were not previously linked to the cases, providing detectives with new information to help solve crimes.

The AFIS Advisory Committee represents the interests of all local cities and law enforcement agencies in King County. We have been consistently impressed with AFIS Program staff's resourcefulness, hard work and commitment toward serving our great community. We are proud of the accomplishments made this past year, and welcome your review of this report, which can also be found online at **www.kingcounty.gov/afis**.

David Cline
AFIS Advisory Committee Chair
Suburban City Representative

AFIS Advisory Committee

Chair
David Cline
City Administrator
City of Tukwila

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Forensic & Digital Imaging Manager
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Penny Bartley
SCORE Director

Lt. Mark Mount
Seattle Police Department

Don Berard
Budget Supervisor
Seattle Police Department

John Resha
Senior Legislative Analyst
King County Council

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Budget Analyst
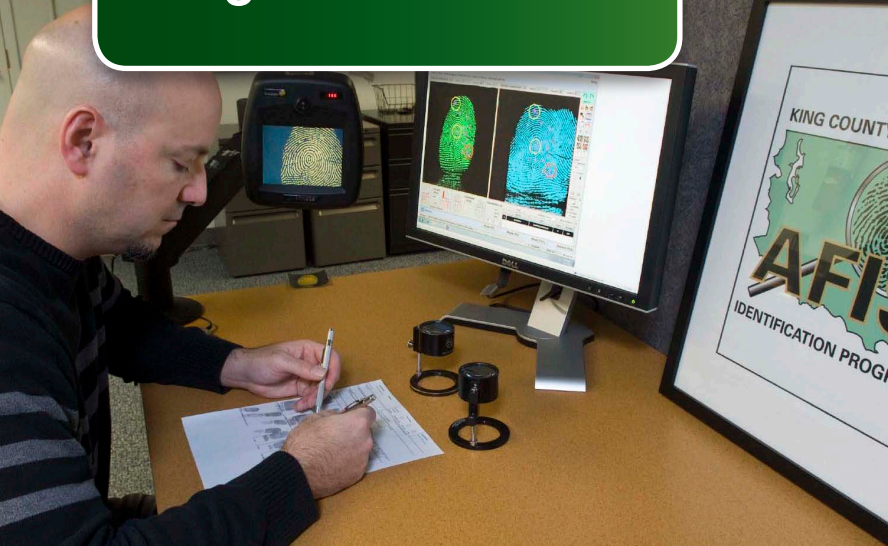King County Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget

Chief Robin Fenton
King County Sheriff's Office

Carol Gillespie
Regional AFIS Manager
King County Sheriff's Office

Contents

Program Overview

AFIS in Numbers

74,192 Livescan (finger/palmprint) records searched through AFIS

732 Individuals identified as giving false names upon arrest

371 Requests for expert crime scene assistance

18,959 Pieces of evidence processed for prints

3,930 Crime scene fingerprints identified

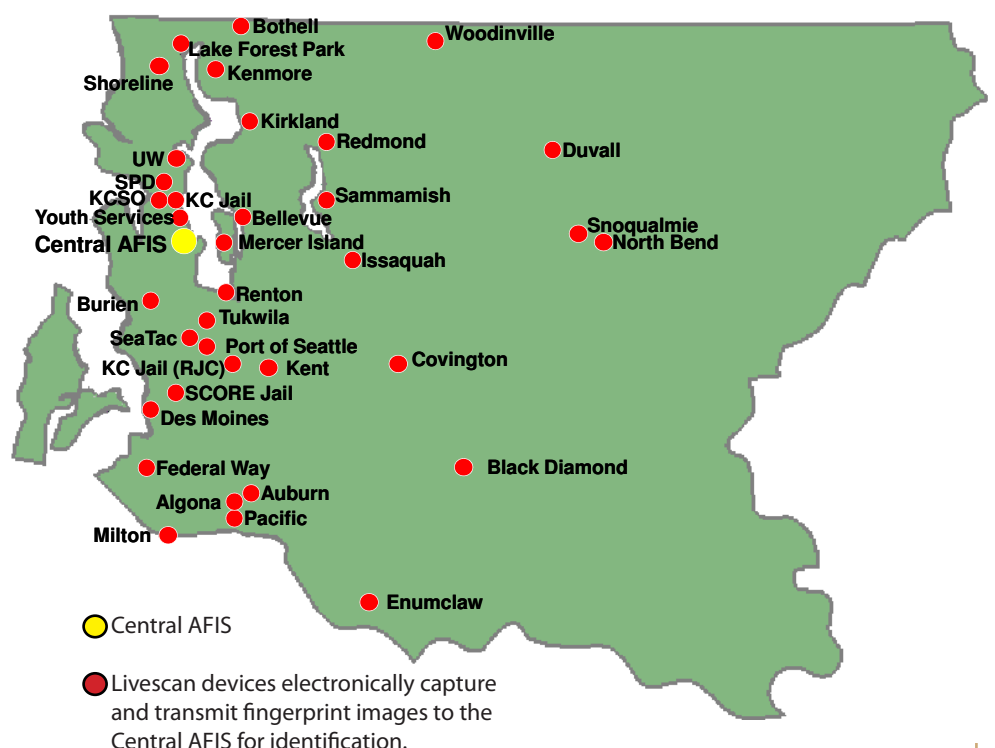**216** Crime scene palmprints identified using the new AFIS

Mission

The Regional AFIS Program promotes public safety and contributes to crime reduction by providing expert fingerprint identification services to criminal justice agencies throughout King County.

King County's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) is a countywide program that supports fingerprint and palmprint identification services. It is funded through a property tax levy and serves all 39 cities and unincorporated areas of King County for law enforcement and criminal justice purposes. This countywide program has been in place since 1988 and in the **current levy period** AFIS has been utilized in **over 36,000 investigations**. Important highlights from 2011 include:

- **Reducing the property tax levy** from the $0.0568 rate authorized by voters to only $0.03528 per $1,000 of assessed value, decreasing the total amount collected from taxpayers by $7 million in 2011 without impacting the services provided or the commitments made to voters for the 2007-2012 levy.

- **Going live with the next generation of AFIS technology software and devices**, including palmprint matching, high-definition electronic fingerprinting (Livescan), and the testing of wireless devices for officers in the field.

AFIS Connections (Livescan) in your Area

Bothell
Lake Forest Park
Woodinville
Kenmore
Shoreline
Kirkland
Redmond
Duvall
UW
SPD
KCSO
KC Jail
Sammamish
Youth Services
Bellevue
Snoqualmie
North Bend
Central AFIS
Mercer Island
Issaquah
Burien
Renton
Tukwila
SeaTac
Port of Seattle
KC Jail (RJC)
Kent
Covington
SCORE Jail
Des Moines
Federal Way
Black Diamond
Algona
Auburn
Pacific
Milton
Enumclaw

○ Central AFIS

● Livescan devices electronically capture and transmit fingerprint images to the Central AFIS for identification.

Financial Summary

2011 REVENUE

Property (Levy) Taxes	$11,588,061
Investment Interest	$87,513
Other (e.g. excise tax)	$96,410
Total	**$11,771,984**

2011 EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	$8,863,769
City of Seattle	$3,341,102
Intergovernmental Overhead	$1,446,212
Supplies & Services	$1,269,488
Capital Equipment	$156,046
Total	**$15,076,617**

Authorized to Collect vs. Actual Collection and Expenditures

* 2010 Expenditures include $3.6 million in New Generation AFIS expenses
**Projected

Median Cost to Taxpayer
(Based on a $350,000 home)

Year	Assessed Levy Rate[1]	Median Cost to Taxpayer[2]
2007	$.05680	$19.88
2008	$.05146	$18.01
2009	$.04473	$15.66
2010	$.04571	$16.00
2011	**$.03528**	**$12.35**
2012[3]	**$.03530**	**$12.36**

[1] Rate determined by County Assessor's Office after preparation of budget.
[2] Median Home Value set at $350,000 for comparison purposes. This number multiplied by assessed levy rate divided by 1,000 equals the median cost to taxpayers. In 2011, the actual median home value was $337,000.
[3] Projected

Financial Summary

The AFIS Program has been funded by a series of countywide property tax levies dating back more than 25 years to 1986. The current levy was approved in 2006 to support services from 2007-2012, with an authorization for more than $16.5 million per year in property taxes. This revenue funds operations and technology in support of criminal fingerprint identification services, as well as the specific initiatives outlined on the following two pages. The distribution of expenses is shown in the Financial Summary table.

Even with the expense of the new identification technology as planned during the current levy period, the AFIS Program continues to provide quality services at a minimal cost. The 2011 expenditures were 19 percent below 2010 expenditures and are anticipated to rise only moderately in 2012. The Program's focus on value and efficiency has meant savings to taxpayers.

With the sunset of the current levy period, the AFIS levy will go before the voters for renewal in November 2012.
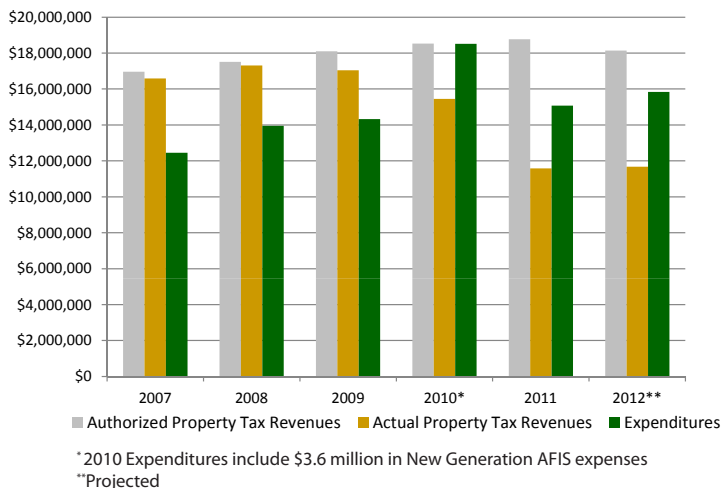
Taxpayer Savings

In 2006, voters authorized a levy rate of $0.0568 of $1,000 of Assessed Value, with the growth of annual levy collections confined by the state's legal limits of one percent each year plus new construction. Beginning with the 2010 budget, the County Executive and Council recognized that a healthy fund balance made it possible to reduce the levy rate, and allowed King County taxpayers to realize savings during the slow economic recovery.

As a result of good management practices and leadership's decisions, **King County taxpayers** saved:
- Over $3 million in 2010
- $7 million in 2011
- $6.4 million in 2012

Over the course of the 2007-2012 levy period, this equates to a **total savings of more than $18 million** from the originally projected revenues. As shown on the Median Cost to Taxpayer chart, the owner of a $350,000 home paid less in taxes in 2011 to support this Program than in 2007 without any loss of service or change in commitment to the voters.

New Generation AFIS

New AFIS Technology

In March 2011, the New Generation AFIS (NGA) went live, introducing palmprint matching for the first time in King County. The NGA replaced the aging AFIS with a faster, updated model.

The old AFIS matched and stored only prints from the first joints of fingers and thumbs. The NGA now also contains palmprints. The new system started with 325,000 sets of palms with more palmprints being added daily. Since palmprints make up about 30 percent of latent prints lifted at crime scenes, examiners now have more information to use when identifying criminals. During the first week of the NGA going live, examiners at Seattle, Bellevue, and King County began identifying palmprints from crime scenes: one robbery, one commercial burglary, two residential burglaries, a larceny, and a vehicle recovery. More than 200 palmprint hits were made in 2011.

Examiners are working with detectives on old cases dating back to the 1980's that had grown cold for years with no leads. In 2011, examiners gave detectives 19 new suspect names in homicide, rape, and kidnapping cases that had not been previously associated with these cold cases. Detectives are using this information to build cases so charges can be filed.

Completing this project was a major milestone for the Program, and the largest project since the first AFIS installation in 1988. The NGA helps to identify more suspects and solve more crimes, contributing to public and officer safety.

New Technology Leads to Identification of Rape Suspect

Latent Print Examiners responded to a rape callout of a 12-year old girl in her Shoreline home. At the scene an examiner lifted a palmprint off a glass-topped dresser in the girl's bedroom. With the New Generation AFIS, palmprints can now be electronically searched and matched. The examiner used this new technology to identify a suspect and then notified the detective. As a result of the advances in technology, the King County Sheriff's Office and Shoreline Police Department quickly arrested a suspect within a few days of the crime. The suspect was charged with First Degree Rape and First Degree Burglary with Sexual Motivation.

Suspect Identified by Palmprint

A 74-year old victim was home alone and heard glass breaking in another part of the house. She called 911 and when officers arrived they found windows broken and evidence of an attempted entry into the home, but no suspects in the area. An officer lifted a partial palmprint from one of the damaged windows. The palmprint was searched through AFIS resulting in the identification of a young male with an extensive record.

Complete

Upgrade Livescans to High Definition

Seven Livescans, or electronic fingerprinting devices, were upgraded to capture images at a higher resolution. The sharper image clarity assists examiners in making the more difficult crime scene identifications. Additional stations may be reviewed for replacement beginning in 2012.

Complete

Install Additional Livescans and Related Technology

The technology that allows Livescans to communicate to the AFIS database was upgraded and consolidated for efficiency and reduced maintenance costs. Between 2007 and 2011, 13 additional Livescans were installed at new locations throughout the county to capture fingerprints upon arrest.

In Progress

Establish Infrastructure for Wireless Mobile Identification and Initiate Pilot Program

Mobile identification enables the officer on the street to fingerprint an individual with a questionable identity. The prints are submitted through wireless means to the AFIS computer and the officer receives a quick print verification. The proof of concept began in late 2011, with the pilot scheduled to be completed in 2012. The AFIS Program is partnering with local agencies on the pilot. In the future, this technology may also be applied in courts and detention facilities.

Complete

Initiate a Court Identification Feasibility Study

The AFIS Program worked with a consultant to survey stakeholders and conduct a study on the feasibility of capturing fingerprints of individuals as they appear in court. The study, completed in July 2011, detailed several steps that should be taken before pursuing a court identification initiative. Included in the findings was a potential pilot approach, dependent upon stakeholder readiness.

"In my 32 years as a Kent Police Officer, I have found that fingerprint evidence remains one of law enforcement's most effective investigative tools. On many occasions, King County AFIS has successfully lifted suspect fingerprints from evidence recovered at burglary and robbery crime scenes and from recovered unoccupied stolen cars in the field. The result of their efforts in providing a viable suspect identification in a variety of crime types has led to numerous arrests, the recovery of thousands of dollars in stolen property, and the successful resolution of crime trend pattern activity throughout the region. Without their responsiveness and expertise, law enforcement's ability to aggressively fight crime would be significantly undermined."

Sgt. M.E. Gustafson
Patrol Sergeant
Kent Police Department

2013-2018 Levy Planning

At the beginning of the year, the AFIS Advisory Committee appointed a levy planning group that comprised of program staff and financial and policy advisors. This group met monthly to create a new six-year operational and levy plan. Its review included staffing revisions, end-of-life technology replacement needs, and other business needs such as supplies, equipment, and facilities. The plan suggests a new levy rate that will provide the revenue needed to maintain existing services. The levy plan was submitted to the King County Executive and Council for consideration on the 2012 general election ballot.

Program Highlights
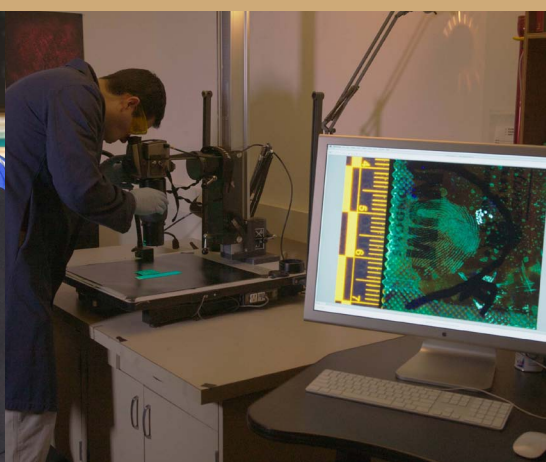
Court Cases

Throughout the nation, it is not uncommon for forensic evidence to be challenged in court. Over the last two years the work of the Regional AFIS Program was challenged several times and upheld on each occasion. The rulings on these motions are important because future cases will use them as a precedent.

Information Technology Projects

The IT staff for AFIS were very busy this last year. All of the servers for the Program as well as the AFIS computer were relocated to King County's new state-of-the-art data facility. With 24/7 operations, planning and coordination was needed to keep systems available during the move. Another project implemented in 2011 was the virtualization of servers. This saves space and reduces energy costs as fewer physical servers are needed. Downtime will be reduced because virtual images can be created and moved to spare virtual servers in the event of capacity issues or hardware failures. IT staff also began work to install adaptive security appliances (all-in-one firewalls) at each Livescan site to provide comprehensive security.

Training Services

AFIS Program staff are well respected in the law enforcement and forensic communities and have a wealth of knowledge regarding fingerprints. Program staff taught classes and provided information to police agencies, universities, middle and high schools, community members at citizens' academies and the National Night Out events as well as at local and national forensic conferences. These trainings and information sharing included:

- Crime scene fingerprint development techniques to officers, deputies, and detectives within Washington state

- Livescan fingerprint capture techniques to officers and correction staff

- Quarterly Forensic Advisory Board meetings to provide educators with teaching material regarding latent print examination

- Latent print identification techniques to examiners

- Basic courtroom testimony preparation to practicing examiners

Film to Digital Photography

This year the King County Latent Unit transitioned from film to digital photography for property crimes. As the lab becomes accustomed to this method, other types of crimes will be photographed digitally. This switch is more efficient for storage purposes and more cost effective because of the reduction of film purchases and development of film. Seattle Police Department (SPD) is presently an all-digital laboratory.

Lab Accreditation

The King County and Seattle Latent Units are continuing their pursuit of forensic laboratory accreditation. The process evaluates and monitors an agency's ability to provide quality services and results to its customers. Actions accomplished in 2011 include updates to standard operating procedures, implementation of a quality management manual, and enhancements to security procedures. The accreditation process is planned for completion in 2013.

Arrest in 1978 Homicide Case

In 1978, an 80 year-old widow was found dead in her Seattle trailer, which was ransacked. The case was never solved. In 2010, Sheriff's Office cold case detectives re-examined the case. Advances in technology now allow prints to be searched through AFIS that previously had not met the criteria for quality. AFIS examiners matched latent fingerprints on items from the crime scene to an individual who lived near the victim at the time of the crime. Between 1978 and 2001, the individual was arrested multiple times in several states, mostly on burglary charges. In September 2011, detectives arrested the individual in Reno, where he resided. **"DNA gets all the attention," said Sheriff Sue Rahr. "But other advances, including fingerprint identification via AFIS, solve crimes as well. It is very gratifying to finally solve the murder of an 80 year-old woman, thanks to AFIS and great detective work."**
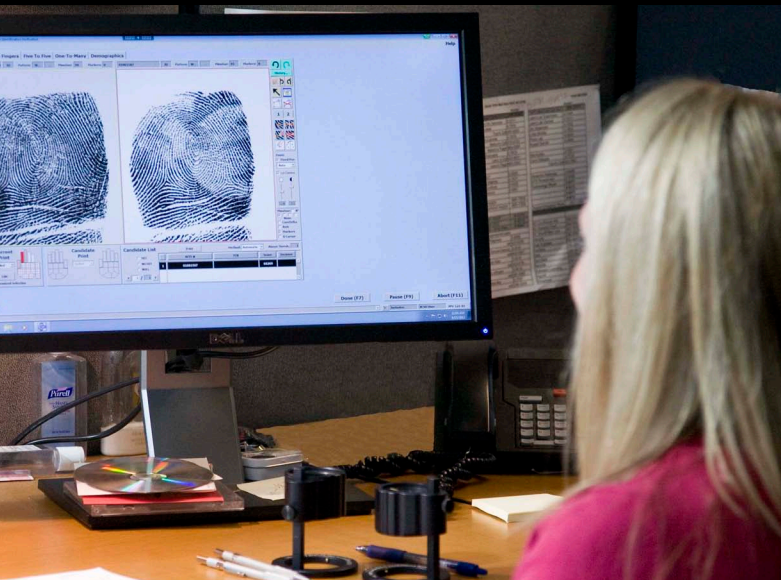
Graffiti Vandal Identified

A Covington man was identified as the suspect in at least 55 cases of graffiti vandalism using spray paint. Some items vandalized were dumpsters, fences, retaining walls, guard rails, and street signs. The break in the case came when a man walking his dog yelled at the suspect who was spray painting a fence. The suspect ran off, but dropped his spray paint can. Examiners processed the can and identified prints. The suspect was charged with Malicious Mischief.

Auto Theft Suspect Identified

Officers had a suspect in a chain of stolen Subarus in the Kent area. Shortly after these occurrences a Saturn stolen from Kent was recovered by Seattle Police Department. AFIS examiners processed the Saturn and items of evidence recovered from the vehicle. An identification was made to none other than the suspect from the chain of stolen Subarus.

Bank Robber Confesses

During a bank robbery, the suspect wrote a demand note on an envelope, asking for cash. The envelope was submitted to SPD's Latent Lab where it was chemically processed by an examiner. The print was searched against the AFIS database and resulted in an identification, which matched the suspect description. After the examiner contacted the lead detective, the suspect was located, interviewed, and subsequently confessed to the crime.

Sexual Assault Suspects Charged

Three suspects broke into a Skyway woman's home, raped her, and stole her BMW. The victim called 911 and reported being raped and assaulted by three suspects. About 45 minutes later, a clerk at a Burien gas station reported a BMW had been abandoned at the gas pumps. A deputy in this same location saw a driver in another vehicle start to make quick turns. After stopping the car, deputies found a knife and a handgun on the driver's side floorboard. Latent Print Examiners gathered evidence at the scene, processed it back at the lab, and identified suspects. Examiners testified in court to their findings. One defendant was sentenced to 25 years, another 24 years, and the third defendant 13 years in prison.

Assault on Trooper

It was reported that a vehicle was being driven erratically northbound on I-5. A Washington State Patrol trooper spotted the vehicle and pulled it over after witnessing several driving violations. The driver acted suspiciously so the trooper tried to open the driver's door, but the driver started the car and sped off. The trooper was dragged approximately 40 feet before he could let go of the vehicle. Before the suspect could get away, he lost control of his vehicle, which became stuck on the shoulder of the road. The driver resisted arrest and gave officers a false name and date of birth. He was booked into the King County Jail where his fingerprints were taken and searched by AFIS staff. The suspect's identity was confirmed and he was held accountable for four outstanding warrants.

9/11 Anniversary Attack Thwarted

The FBI asked for help in locating a man who was planning a 9/11 anniversary attack. The man had been asking questions about gun powder and bomb making materials at a local gun store in Kent. Jail Identification staff searched the physical descriptors through a mug shot database and found a potential suspect. The FBI was notified and the individual was located in an Auburn park by a Fish and Wildlife officer.

Identifying the Deceased

The Medical Examiner's Office needed help identifying a person in which the only information available was race and date of death. Fingerprints were faxed to the Tenprint Unit for assistance. The fingerprints were searched through AFIS and a match was confirmed by an examiner, who notified the Medical Examiner's Office with next-of-kin information. This is a regular service provided by the AFIS Program.

Burglar Caught

The Repeat Burglary Initiative, coordinated by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, is designed to identify and target the most prolific burglars in King County by working with law enforcement to build strong criminal cases. In September 2010, there was a series of burglaries with no leads. In October, SPD examiners identified a suspect from a fingerprint found on a jewelry box. The suspect led the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to her accomplice. Their confessions linked them to 28 burglaries. Several victims gave powerful pleas at the trial. In February 2011, the suspect pleaded guilty to ten counts of Residential Burglary and First Degree Trafficking in Stolen Property and was sentenced to nearly six years in prison.

Teamwork Pays Off

Over a two-day period, AFIS staff assisted the Mercer Island Police Department's Investigation Unit on a robbery and related burglary where a significant amount of force was used towards the victims. Latent prints were recovered from processing two residential scenes and three vehicles. A print lifted from one of the vehicles resulted in an identification to one of the suspects and subsequently led to the identification of a second suspect. The late night assistance and diligence at the crime scene by the AFIS team helped to successfully identify the suspects.

Program Services

Arrest Identification Services

At King County correctional facilities and police agencies, Livescan devices are used to electronically record and transmit fingerprint images to the AFIS database for identification by examiners 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anyone found to be using a false name is reported to the arresting officer or detention facility immediately. This process ensures that inmates are positively identified prior to release from custody, preventing individuals from evading warrants or hiding criminal records.

AFIS Program staff update state and federal arrest records, or rapsheets. Arrest data is reported quickly and accurately so that courts, law enforcement, and licensing agencies have access to the most current criminal history record information possible. These records are used for criminal and background investigations, warrant checks, and sentencing determinations.

AFIS staff who work in King County correctional facilities also capture booking photos, collect DNA samples, and create photo montages ("line-ups"), which detectives use to help victims identify suspects.

Additional services include working with victims of identity theft, identifying deceased individuals for the Medical Examiner's Office, identifying injured or unconscious hospital patients, and assisting with sex offender registrations.

Photography Services

Both the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) and SPD Photo Laboratories perform imaging services. These units provide digital and film photography as well as processing and print production for forensic, crime scene, and public relation purposes. They also train officers on crime scene photography. Although the AFIS levy does not fund these units, it provides supplemental funding due to the high volume of latent photography work performed for the AFIS Program.
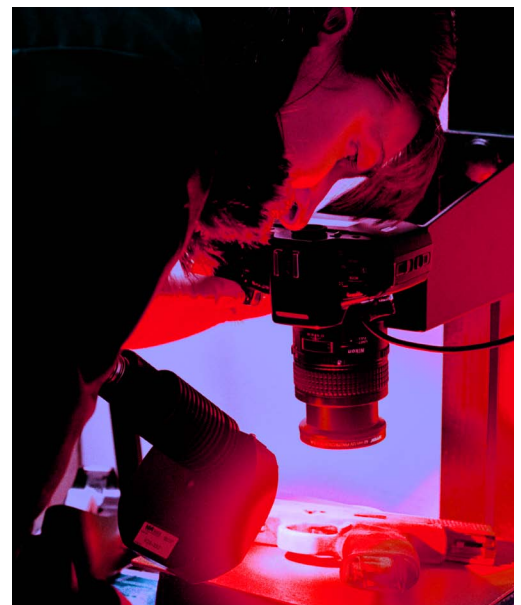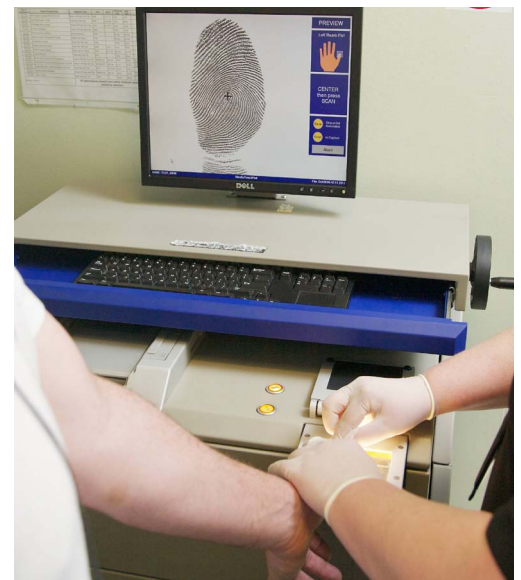
Crime Scene Identification Services
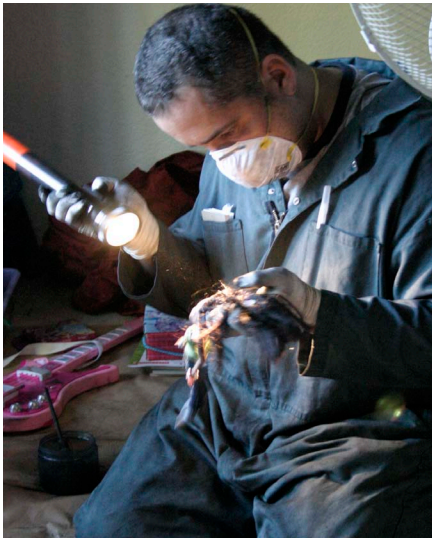
Prints recovered from crime scenes are known as latent (hidden) prints. Examiners use various techniques to reveal prints left on evidence in order to identify potential suspects. If a detective has a suspect name, the examiner's work is streamlined. When there is no known suspect, the crime scene print is searched against millions of prints stored in the AFIS database. The system produces a list of potential matches based on the ridge detail within the print. The examiner then compares the latent print to the prints on file and determines to whom the print belongs. Examiners testify as experts in court regarding the identifications they make. Although the Bellevue Police Department funds its own examiners, the AFIS Program provides its equipment and technology.

Related functions include the intake and return of crime scene evidence, record keeping of case files, tracking of statistical data, and providing reports to law enforcement.

Customer Support & Training

This workgroup provides technical instruction and helpdesk support for all AFIS and Livescan customers in King County. It coordinates community events, fingerprint related training for officers and examiners, and facilitates communication among stakeholders throughout the county.

Program & Project Management

Program management oversees daily operations, acquisitions, budget, maintenance, and use of AFIS and Livescan equipment and networks throughout the county. They ensure compliance with state and national industry standards, administer the completion of program initiatives, and respond to issues in the ever-changing biometric and forensic disciplines.

"I would like to thank King County Regional AFIS for its support of our Immigration and Customs Enforcement Operations Office. The information provided to us through your AFIS Program has led to multiple arrests of criminals who are unlawfully in the United States. The information is instrumental in the support of our mission to protect national security, public safety and the integrity of our borders."

Lisa McDaniel
Supervisory Detention & Deportation Officer
Seattle ICE/ERO-Criminal Alien Program
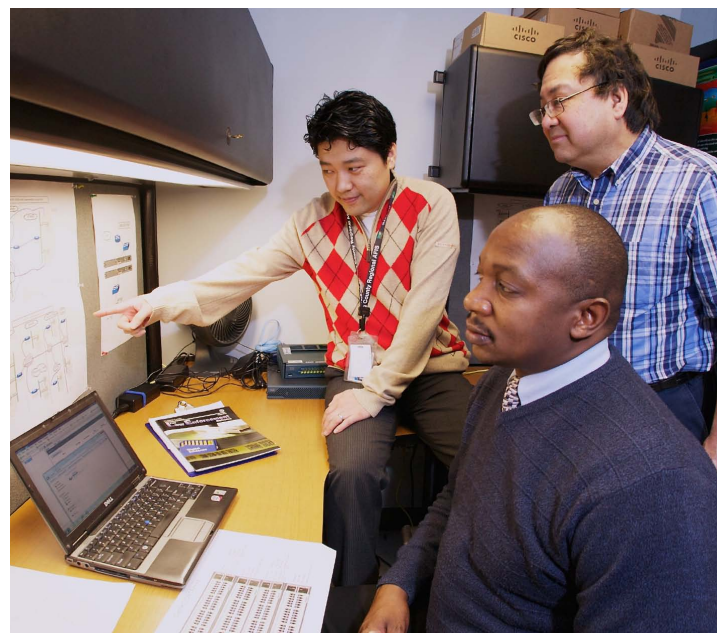
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